

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 9, 2004. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9-11, 15, and 15-19 were amended and claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 7 were editorially amended and also amended to incorporate some of the subject matter of claims 6 and 11, respectively. Claim 11 was amended to remove the subject matter that has been incorporated into claim 7 and claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 15-19 were editorially amended. Accordingly, no new subject matter has been added. Applicants submit that in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the pending claims (1-5 and 7-19) are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for being in narrative form and for including grammatical and idiomatic errors. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9-11, and 15-19 have been amended to clarify the subject matter of the claims. For example, with respect to the specific issue raised by the Examiner regarding the relationship between the "user information" and the "personal identifier," the claims have been clarified to indicate that the term "user information" includes the "personal identifier." "User information" also may include other data directly or indirectly related to the user, including data regarding the location of the user, related protocol address, as well as the user's desired services. See Figure 3 and page 8, lines 24-25.

Claims 1-11 and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,161,008 to Lee et al. This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 recites an apparatus providing a communication service based on a personal identifier comprising: a user information management unit including a user information service unit and a user information storing unit, wherein such user information management unit receives a user information from a user terminal that includes a personal information software for registering a user information. Lee et al. fail to disclose or suggest the above-recited features.

In particular, Lee et al. fail to disclose or suggest an information management unit that receives user information from user terminals that include personal information software for registering user information. In view of this deficiency of Lee et al., it is easier to register users according to the present invention as compared to the system provided by Lee et al. Claims 2-5 depend and further limit claim 1, therefore they are also not anticipated by Lee et al.

The method of claim 7 incorporates an analogous limitation to the one discussed above, namely, receiving personal identifier and the verification information from the user terminal

based on a connection with the user terminal including a personal information software. Accordingly, claim 7 is also not anticipated. Claims 8-19 depend and further limit claim 7; therefore, they are also not anticipated.

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Lee et al. This rejection is traversed. However, in view of Lee et al.'s failure to disclose or suggest the step of receiving information from a user terminal that includes personal information software, this rejection is moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: January 10, 2005

for *Curtis B. Hamre*
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/JEL:sl

